

THE AMERICAN.

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 14, 1867.

Curiosities of Literature.

The following extracts from letters under the sign manual of Mr. Buchanan, disclose the eminent consistency of this distinguished head of the great National Democratic party. That which Mr. Buchanan writes is consistent to the orthodox in 1860 and 1868, it strikes him with amazement in 1867 to find that any one should venture to assert:

JAMES BUCHANAN IN 1868.

"Having urged the adoption of the Missouri Compromise, the inference is irresistible, that Congress, in my opinion, possesses power to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the Territories."

JAMES BUCHANAN IN 1866.

"This legislation—the Kansas and Nebraska bill—is founded on principles as ancient as free government itself, and in accordance with them, simply declared that the people of a Territory, like those of a State, shall decide for themselves whether slavery shall or shall not exist within the limits."—*Acceptation of nomination for the Presidency.*

PRESIDENT BUCHANAN IN 1867.

"Slavery existed at that period [when the Kansas and Nebraska bill was passed] and still exists in Kansas under the laws of the United States. This point has at last been decided by the highest tribunal known to our laws. How it could ever have been seriously doubted, is a mystery. If a confederation of sovereign States acquire a new territory at the expense of their common blood and treasure, surely one set of the parties can have no right to exclude the other from its engagement, by prohibiting them from taking into it whatever is recognized as property by a common Constitution."—*Letter to S. J. May.*

AGENTS FOR THE AMERICAN.

For First, Second, Third and Fourth Wards, Henry Johnson, residence 408 K Street.
For Georgetown, (The Embroidery),
For Sixth Ward, John Little.
For Fifth and Seventh Wards, MORTIMER SMALLWOOD, No. 574, North Capitol street, between B and C.
HENRY BOTER, Agent for Alexandria.

THANKS.

We feel sincerely grateful to those warm-hearted, whole-hearted, and large-hearted friends who have taken an interest in our success, and who have taken hold and labored in earnest and successfully for us. Our poor thanks are all that we have to tender them for their kindness. But better than our thanks is their own consciousness of having done right. God bless them.

The successful and successful Americans will have a social confab to-morrow evening at their usual place of meeting. No one who has a disease in his back-bone, who prevents him from standing up like a man, or whose knees smite together, tooth chatter, and cheeks turn pale at the sight of a Government spy, need run any risk by coming among "Men who know their rights, and knowing, dare maintain them."

Renegades, and those who desire to become such, will find themselves more comfortable elsewhere.

N. B.—We shall before that time have good news from the old rock in the ocean, Maryland.

There is no issue between the Republic and ourselves. We have nothing to say about the extension of slavery. The subject of slavery is one which we eschew altogether; we do not think any profit can arise to either section of the country, and certainly not to the country at large, by its being discussed either in the public papers or in Congress. We have said, and now repeat, that the agitation of the slavery question has been an unmitigated evil, resultant of no good whatsoever. We wash our hands of it.

Gov. Andrew Johnson has been elected to the Senate of the United States as the successor of Senator Jones, of Tennessee. If Senator Jones's object, in going over into the camp of his old opponents, was to secure his re-election to the Senate, he has failed, and is very much in the condition of the darkey who went to hear Mass Whitfield preach, and didn't hear him.

STATE ELECTIONS.

An election for Governor, members of Congress, etc., takes place to-day in Maryland. State elections were yesterday held in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Iowa, and Minnesota.

THE GERMAN AND DEMOCRACY.

An article bearing this title will be found in another column, copied from the Illinois State Journal. We copy it for the special benefit of the Southern Democracy, that they may see where those on whom they have heretofore relied as their "natural allies" are now going. If the Germans of the north and west fall into the ranks of the Republicans, the Democrats of those sections will be reduced to a powerless, almost a pitiful minority, and will be able to render the Democracy of the South very little "aid and comfort" in their struggle against Freecellism.

But, while the Democracy of the South should be considering these things, and guarding against the future, they are making a senseless and insane warfare upon the Americans! They are wilfully blind, but we should suppose that the course of the Germans at the North would open their eyes.

THE CAPITOL.

The work upon the new dome of the Capitol is going on, and from present appearances we shall soon see the first range or drum of pillars standing upon their foundations. We could wish, however, that the work upon the dome might be stopped until the meeting of Congress. Not that we do not desire to see the dome reared, but because we hope the next Congress will order the centre building, or old Capitol, to be raised another story, twenty-five or thirty feet higher. We think this would give the whole, but especially that building, a more noble appearance. At present it has a squat look, which is the reverse of grand. Its towers have always been a defect; but now that the two wings are added, the length upon the ground, of the whole pile, is too great for the height of the centre building.

Other improvements are necessary, namely: to clear away the trees, or most of them, on the east side of the Capitol, and to cut down the ground to a level, so that there shall be no descent towards the building. Until this is done, that splendid and costly edifice, worthy of the nation, will never have the lofty and beautiful appearance it is capable of having. Set the dome on the centre building as it is now, and it will look like a pyramid of ice cream upon a white dish. The idea of grandeur is given more by just proportions than by largeness of size. Nothing can be beautiful that is not duly proportioned.

Requiem.—It is stated that the late John B. Thayer bequeathed \$50,000 to Harvard College, the income to be applied to the aid of poor young men; \$10,000 to his friend, Rev. George Putnam, of Haverbury; \$5,000 to Rev. Rufus Ellis, of the First Church of Boston, where the lawyer was buried; and \$1,000 a year to Dr. James Jackson as long as he lives, and to be continued to his wife if she survives him. Dr. Jackson is 90 years old.

THE MONETARY STRINGENCY.

The Boston and New York banks continue to pay specie, and it is to be hoped will do so to the end. Now if they can pay specie, it is stated as to be in the midst of a commercial and mercantile community, in which heavy failures are daily occurring, why cannot our banks? Have there been any failures here of any moment? Not that we have heard of. Have our banks lost largely by discounting for merchants, produce dealers, or manufacturers? If so, the public are not aware of it. Have more than the usual number of notes laid over unpaid? In short, have the debtors to our banks failed to pay them; and thereby disabled them from paying their depositors and bill-holders in specie? No such pretence is set up.

In consequence of the Government being the great employer here, and paying out monthly large sums in specie, we have more gold and silver in circulation among us than in any other city in the Union. A great majority of the depositors of our banks must be employees of the Government, whose deposits consist entirely of gold; and as specie forms so large a portion of our circulation, the banks cannot have a very large amount of bills out, and certainly a small amount as compared with the specie on hand.

Why, then, did they suspend, and why do they not resume? We are sure it is not because they are not able to pay specie, nor because they desire to relieve the community by extending their discounts, for they are not discounting at all. We can see no sufficient reason to justify the course they are pursuing; and we should not be surprised if it should provoke an inquiry into their right to transact the business of banking at all.

What right have they to offer us their bills when we take them for the gold we deposited with them? Would they take our note for a debt we might owe them? No. Then why tender their notes for a debt due us, and refuse to pay us specie?

"PHENOMENA OF THE PRESSURE." We copy an article, thus headed, from the New York Times, which will be found in another column. The writer alludes to the reign of "Nick Biddle," the money King, and describes the scenes that took place in New York in 1837.

We well remember those times, being then a citizen of Philadelphia. And well do we remember, too, the visit of Mr. Biddle to the city of New York after the great fire; how the New York merchants beseeched him for "aid and comfort" in their day of adversity and distress, and how promptly and magnanimously that relief was given to the extent of three millions of dollars. We remember also how ready the New Yorkers were to requite this favor, for which, at the moment they could not find words sufficiently expressive for their grateful feelings. And how did they requite the noble act? By joining in the hue-and-cry of denunciation raised by the Democratic party against Mr. Biddle and the United States Bank. So long as he was the "Money King," no monarch ever had more obsequious flatterers, or received more grateful thanks (for favors expected). But when the extraordinary financial tempest of 1837 overtook the Bank, and Mr. Biddle was left powerless, no man was ever more maligned and vilified, nor more unjustly.

Mr. Biddle occupied a position for many years that enabled him, if he had adopted the ethics of the party that so fiercely warred upon him, namely, "That good rule, the simple plan, That he shall take who has the power, And he shall keep who can."

To have become the richest man in America; and yet, like the younger Pitt, he died poor. The people of the United States were assured again and again, by the Democratic press, that Mr. Biddle and the United States Bank had caused the crash of 1837; and the vials of Democratic wrath were emptied upon his devoted head, and such were the denunciations heaped upon him by a host of Editors, animated by an infuriated party zeal—some of them undoubtedly expressing their honest sentiments—that hundreds of thousands were made to believe, and believe to this day, that he was no better than "Old Nick" himself, if he were not in truth, the identical "Old Chitney."

The history of the war between General Jackson and Mr. Biddle, or the United States Bank, is but little understood by the great majority of the present generation; and, as we think it would be found to be full of interest, as well as important to correct many false impressions and prejudices, we may perhaps indulge ourselves in presenting a brief narrative of it, heretofore, to our readers.

WISCONSIN vs. HUNTER.

We had supposed that Mr. Wise had been withdrawn from the Senatorial contest in Virginia, but it seems not. The Enquirer, in some remarks in reply to the Alexandria Sentinel, says that the postponement of the election of a Senator for two years "might indeed lead to a dangerous division in the ranks of the Democracy of Virginia. We say dangerous division, because, in the event, at that day, of any such contest between Senator Hunter and Governor Wise, as is now not unlikely to arise, the disreputable or unkind recollections which might be left on the minds of some of their most ardent adherents and friends, would have little time to fade away before the nomination for the Presidency—but a few months subsequent." The Enquirer further argues that Mr. Hunter's silence under the call made upon him, may render an election this winter "imperative" as a means of passing judgment or condemnation against him, and in behalf of the administration.

If Mr. Hunter will declare himself in favor of the administration, there will be no "advanced battle" over his seat in the Senate. If not, he may expect his political career to close, on the third day of March, 1869.

There, Mr. Hunter, is the law and the terms laid down for you, pretty much in the style of Dean Swift's charity sermon. The Dean having read his text, which was, "He that hath pity on the poor lendeth to the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again," said: "My brethren, you have heard the terms, and if you are satisfied with the security, down with the cash."

If Mr. Hunter wants to be re-elected, he must declare himself for the Administration. "Measures, not men," pay.

THE PORT SELLING "STEELE."

The Virginia Free Press, in referring to this subject, says: "We think it probable some of the newspapers are going off upon imperfect information in regard to the facts connected with the sale of Port Snelling by Secretary John B. Floyd, under authority of an act of Congress. We understand he is speaking able whenever he shall deem it proper to speak on the subject, to make a satisfactory explanation of the matter. We hope the Whig Press will not follow the bad example of their opponents, in raising a clamor against public officers upon mere suspicion, or upon slight grounds. Gov. Floyd is a man of great decision of character, who pursues his object with direction, and generally has a good reason for whatever his judgment dictates. This much an acquaintance with him for more than twenty years enables us to say. Like his honored father, he is true to his friends; and this is a trait which deserves praise rather than censure."

DO BLACK FLORESH AND PROSPERITY ADVANCE TOGETHER?

WHEN LEFT TO THEIR OWN COUNSEL?

The following remarks of the Editor of the New York N. C. Rising Sun, are suggestive, and will be very apt to set one on thinking: "Gerret Smith, who, a few years ago, was one of the greatest and owners in the world, and one of the strongest Abolitionists—one died in the week—gave upwards of 200,000 acres of land in the western part of New York, without money, and without price, some 8000 men, selected negroes too, provided they would settle upon it and cultivate the land. What was the result to day in his own language, not fifty out of the 3000, who set out to become farmers, hold possession of their grants; and what is worse, a majority of them have either sold their lands or allowed it to be sold for the taxes. Some say, by way of extension, that the land was barren and the climate cold. But while men live there; and Mr. Smith states that they not only make a sufficient to purchase their farms, but to support their families and a surplus over to buy the very lands which he gave to his favorites—the negroes. How have they done this? By hard work and frugal habits. How happens it that so very few negroes, sent out by Mr. Smith, have turned out well—and how happens it that the negroes did not resort to hard work and frugal habits? Because they are naturally lazy, trifling, and indolent."

That the negro lacks tact, energy, capacity, genius and perseverance, is evident to the public mind. Take any emigrant of the white race, throw him out where you please, in the wilds of the West, he will go to work, erect his cabin, fight for his religion, his country, his liberty, his friends; acquire wealth, standing, educate his children. There may be a prejudice against him, but does it prevent him from working or maintaining his manhood? No. He meets prejudice with an iron will, and crushes it out. Can you keep him from it? No. The standing of the emigrant by honesty and upright conduct, is elevated, and he can attain to the highest offices and mingle with the most respectable. Can the negro? He is recognized upon an equality? He is eligible even among Black Republicans, to the highest positions? He is considered as a watch-dog, a proper associate and companion for white ladies? No!

It is folly—madness—nonsense, to say that prejudice or opportunities prevent the negro from attaining a position and maintaining dignity and standing. If prejudice, why has he not faced it? Why has he not met it, like the Irishman, and crushed it? No, the fact is, and it must be acknowledged, that the negro lacks the iron will, the ability, the intellectual capacity, the administrative power. In the earliest ages—in the beginning, he was a slave. He has made no advances except when under the control of the white man—and the end is, most will be, that he will remain a servant of servants.

NORTHERN EUROPE.

The following remarks of the London correspondent of the National Intelligencer present to our consideration a matter of great importance, and one which may eventually become momentous and all-absorbing:

"If there be one quarter of Europe which more than another is liable to war at this time it is the great Baltic region, which divided into two independent but secondary kingdoms, Sweden and Denmark. These are separately States of inferior rank, not very cordial in their feelings towards each other, and both disturbed by the claims of Russia. For a considerable time the Scandinavian population have been fostering an idea which would develop into a war between the vast water-way to the Baltic to commerce and shut out the Russians from the avenues of the German Ocean; we mean the consolidation of Sweden, Norway, and Denmark under one government. They are inhibited by races of one blood and generally of one faith—the Puritans of the continent. This union would create a Lutheran nation of six millions of souls, with an army of 215,000 men, and a navy numbering 15 sail of the line, 14 frigates, and 430 smaller armed vessels—a liberal State, identified in feelings and interests, and to a certain extent in race, with Great Britain, a counterpoise to Germany and Russia, and a centre of action for all the aspiring nationalities of the continent. Public opinion in this country will, we believe, warmly approve of the project when it has been sufficiently explained; since it would greatly extend the northern trade of England, secure this country from the naval supremacy of Russia, and lay open the Finnish frontier to industrial activity. There is a special reason at present for referring to this magnificent plan of national organization, and that is the failure in health of the reigning King of Sweden. His physicians agree against all chance of his recovery; and the probability is that, according to the provision of the Swedish constitution, the Crown Prince of Sweden, at present Viceroy of Norway, will be before long raised to the position of Regent of Sweden. This prince is highly popular in Sweden, and is deeply and warmly interested in the union of the Scandinavian States. The success of this project, and the opening of the Finnish frontier to industrial activity, will be a great boon to the Scandinavian States, and will be a great boon to the world."

Under this head the Newbury (N. C.) Rising Sun says: "This matter seems to be exciting no little agitation. Many of our exchanges have articles in their favor. We have seen but little, if anything, advanced against it. Its advocates have the field entirely to themselves." "The advocates of the re-opening of the slave trade have the field entirely to themselves, we presume, because those who may be opposed to it do not consider it worth while to discuss the subject. As this would have to be done by Congress, if done at all, no one can seriously suppose that the law prohibiting the importation of slaves can ever be repealed. Suppose every member of the House of Representatives from the slaveholding States were to vote in favor of the repeal—and this is supposing what will never take place—where are the additional votes, necessary to make a majority, to come from?"

What good can be gained by the South, then, by agitating this subject? None in the world; and it can only be agitated for the sake of keeping up agitation. It is just what the agitators of the North desire, and is playing into their hands, or rather playing the game of agitation with them.

From the Illinois State Journal, Oct. 24.

The Germans and the Democracy.

Our German friends in Wisconsin are coming up manfully in vindication of their freedom-loving character. In Milwaukee, they have repudiated the Slavery-extension party, and resolved to hold a Mass Convention early in the present October, for the purpose of securing concert of action in the advancement of sound Republican doctrines. We have now before us the proceedings of a meeting of the German citizens of Racine, on Monday evening last, in which the Republican nominations and State platform were enthusiastically endorsed. Among the resolutions adopted were the following:

Resolved, That we adhere immovably to the doctrines and principles which the founder of the Democratic Republic, Thomas Jefferson, has announced.

Resolved, That we reaffirm the platform of the Democratic party of Wisconsin of the year 1848.

Resolved, That we consider the action of the present Federal Administration in conflict with those principles which the founders of the Republic have set forth in the Declaration of Independence.

Resolved, That we are opposed to the exertions of the Democratic party to extend Slavery into free territory.

Resolved, That we perceive in the late decision of the United States Supreme Court, in the case of Dred Scott, an attempt to give Slavery an appearance of legality.

Resolved, That in the platform of the Republican party of Wisconsin, framed September 2, 1854, we again find those principles which are laid down in the Declaration of Independence, and in the Federal Constitution, and which have been, in former days, the basis of the Democratic party.

Resolved, That we have full confidence in those men who have been nominated by the Republican party, that they, when selected, will conduct their offices faithfully, honestly, and righteously.

Resolved, That in those paragraphs of the Republican platform, which settle the maintenance of the existing naturalization laws, and the equality of immigrants with native-born citizens, and also in the nomination of our countryman, Carl Schurz, for the office of Lieutenant Governor, we perceive the best evidence that the party is justly entitled to the confidence of the Germans of Wisconsin.

These resolutions are sensible, concise, directly to the point, and they show conclusively how the great German heart of the nation beats in the contest against slavery. The Democratic party, the great party of Wisconsin, and the nation, have run away from their position in 1848; but the sturdy German character, less volatile, and more devoted to principle, stands fast by the faith which it then professed.

The meeting was ably addressed by H. Tupper, Esq., who edited the "Volksblatt," a Buchanan paper, during the campaign of 1856. Messrs. Ritchie and Winter, the present editors of the "Volksblatt," also addressed the meeting. These gentlemen cannot swallow the President's new doctrine of the rights of slavery everywhere under the Federal Constitution. It is said that at least two hundred German votes in the Racine county, that have heretofore gone for the so-called Democratic party, will be cast, at the ensuing election, for the Republican ticket. Again, we say, our German friends in Wisconsin are on the right track.

It is as natural, says the Chicago Journal, for our German citizens to espouse Republican principles, as it is for a prisoner, escaped from an unjust incarceration, to rejoice in his liberty. They left the oppressed country of their birth to seek and enjoy the civil and religious freedom that is enjoyed in the American Republic. Our Republican form of government is the great lodestone that attracts them hither, and their natural love of freedom causes them to become identified with our institutions and our nationality, as readily as a tributary stream mingles its waters with the main river.

Now look at this, everybody but bakers think that bakers' ovens ought to increase in size, or diminish in price. Bakers are down, too, yet some retail grocers are of a notion that they ought to be a tributary stream mingles its waters with the main river.

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RE-OPENING OF THE SLAVE TRADE.

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In times past, the great mass of this class of our citizens have been induced, by the attraction of a mere name, to join and give their support to the so-called Democratic party of the country. The word Democracy has a meaning with the downward subjects of European despotism, and when they arrive in this country they naturally turn with favor to the political party which bears that name, being misled by a false name to support a party with false principles. But the Germans—especially the more intelligent among them—have discovered their mistake, and are being undeceived in their ideas as to what party Democracy in America is. They find that our "National Democracy" is the party of slavery, corruption, and injustice; and, as a natural consequence, they turn from it with as much disgust as they at first turned towards it with hope.

Within a year or two the movement of abandoning the sham Democracy has been in progress among the Germans, and now there are comparatively but a few left in that party of that principle organization. In Illinois, they are almost unanimously Republicans; and in Ohio, where they have been gradually coming over to the support of the Republican party, they are now deserting the Democracy in scores, being disgusted by the liberal and pro-slavery tendencies of the Buchanan politicians of that State. And now, we are gratified to learn, in Wisconsin the same general movement is in progress. In that State, the Germans are holding meetings, and by hundreds resolving to oppose the party that has deceived them.

We cordially welcome this class of our adopted citizens into the Republican ranks. They are generally amongst the best and most valuable of our citizens, and will prove good and earnest supporters of that cause of popular liberty, which is the great principle of their love and admiration, the corner-stone of the Republican organization.

For the American.

It is said of Luther, that, when journeying to the city of Worms, he was warned of approaching danger, and entreated by his friends not to go thither; his reply was worthy of the great Reformer, and indicative of the spirit which should animate every ambassador of the Saviour of the world. Said he, "if every tile upon the roof of every house were a devil, I would go forward in the discharge of duty." And it is also said of the great Reformer of Scotland, John Knox, that he never feared the face of man. I would to God, that the same spirit inspired the heralds of the Cross in the present day. Where is that boldness and heroism that once characterized the Protestant pulpit? and as a consequence, the triumph of the church were marked and numerous. But in these latter days, a craven spirit seems to have laid hold upon almost the entire Protestant ministry, and under the influence of a man-fearing spirit, they no longer sound the alarm, and expose the errors of the "man of sin."

While Protestants are thus succumbing to the followers of Antichrist, the Jesuit hordes in public and private, denounce Protestant Christianity, and openly and boldly proclaim, that the day is not far distant when Roman Catholicism in all its glory, shall reign triumphant in the land of the Puritans and cavaliers. You little know the plans and purposes of the Roman Hierarchy.

I have been led to these remarks from a perusal of the October number of the "Metropolitan," a monthly periodical, published in the city of Baltimore, under the patronage of the Archbishop, by John Murphy, No. 182, Baltimore street. I would be pleased to give very copious extracts, but my time and your space will compel me to confine myself to a few, which I think will arouse every Protestant, and awaken him to a sense of his danger and duty.

On pages 628-9, we read as follows: "Coupling the sacred cause of freedom with that of hostility to the church, the revolution of 1848 in Europe failed, as it deserved to fail; for modern Europe was all to the church, to the Papacy, and the scheme of social or political reform that seeks to rise upon the ruins of either, is one that must result in barbarism."

I would ask the writer to compare Protestant Scotland with Spain, Sweden with Portugal, England with Austria, the north with the south of Ireland, and the United States with Mexico and South America, and where do we find the barbarism? Again we read,

"The triumphs of the existing government in Europe, draw among us a horde of enemies of Catholicity, who, noisy, turbulent and vindictive, soon found in the ancient bigotry of the masses a ready audience for their no popular doctrine. To that bigotry they gave the idea of the secret societies of Europe, and Know-Nothingism arose to sweep over the land, carrying elections in State after State, and even bringing a Presidential candidate into the field, presenting a strange spectacle of a party claiming to be exclusively American, just eighty years after the Declaration of Independence, reversing that great State paper. Under their influence individual and concerted acts of violence took place; priests have been assaulted, even tarred and feathered; Sisters of Charity insulted in the streets; their convents invaded by a mob of riotous soldiers, established by every principle of our Government. Mobs have assailed Catholic churches, excited bloody riots in city after city, till they have at last sufficed with gore the very Capital of the Union. The halls of legislation became the dens of Anti-Catholic plots; acts for forfeiting Catholic church property have been passed; and, at this moment, a very ample which Catholic zeal and piety, which devoted prelates, and no less devoted people have reared to the honor of Almighty God on Connecticut soil, is claimed by that State as her property, as much and fully hers, as the State House where she makes her laws. At the same time the public treasury is opened to enrich societies, established by every principle of our Government, and power even given unto them to seize Catholic children by force."

"Such have been since the revolution the great Anti-Catholic outbreaks. Sadly have they changed the face of America. Sadly have they rolled back the tide of human liberty. They have made American liberty and toleration a by-word."

"Like David Sam, that tempts the eye, And turns to ashes on the lip."

Sweden is no longer ashamed; Tuscany mocks us, and Switzerland binds us by treaty to distinctions of creed."

What unblushing impudence for a foreign Priest, who has found a home and an asylum in this land of free toleration? For it is evident that this was written by a priest, and a foreigner. How false are his statements? Who shot down in the streets of Philadelphia, in 1844, American citizens that had peaceably assembled in town meeting? We answer, Irish Catholics. Who murdered George Shillier whilst holding the American flag? Irish Catholics. And at the same time and in the same city, a Catholic church was found to be supplied with arms and ammunition, notwithstanding the priest had declared at the altar, there was neither arms or ammunition in the church.

On page 626 we read:

"The part taken in the literature of the United States, by Catholics, is slight. In a literary point of view they are excluded. No country is absolutely more priest-ridden than ours. No where do the clergy exert, or attempt to exert, a more controlling, tyrannical influence, than do the Protestant clergy in the United States."

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